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APPLICATION FOR
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SPECIFICATION

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Title of the Invention: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ATM CELL SERVICE

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APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ATM CELL SERVICE

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to an ATM cell service apparatus for multiplexing an ATM cell from an ATM network into an N.A. (North America) new synchronous signal.

10 Description of the Related Art

 Conventionally, there has been a multiplexing device for accommodating an N.A. asynchronous communications network signal in an N.A. new synchronous network (SONET: synchronous optical
15 network, refer to ANSI TI-105) and a new synchronous communications network according to the standards of the TTC (Telecommunication Technology Committee) (refer to JT-G707, JT-807, and JT-709), or a multiplexing device for accommodating an ATM
20 (asynchronous transfer mode) cell in the N.A. asynchronous communications network (PDH: plesiochronous digital hierarchy network).

 Recently, there are an N.A. asynchronous signal network (hereinafter referred to as a DS_n network)
25 network) and an N.A. new synchronous (SONET) signal

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network (hereinafter referred to a SONET) in an N.A. transmission network.

When the DS_n network is connected to the SONET, a SONET optical transmission device is used.

5 However, although a device for connecting a network (hereinafter referred to as a DS3 network) of a DS3 (44.736 Mbps) signal to a network (hereinafter referred to as a SONET STS-1) capable of performing a multiplexing/demultiplexing process in a SONET in

10 an STS-1 (51.84 Mbps) signal unit has been put to practical use, a device for connecting an STM and ATM cell in a DS3 (44.736 Mbps) signal to a network capable of flexibly multiplexing/demultiplexing in a SONET in an STS-1 (51.84 Mbps) signal unit has

15 not been put to practical use.

Only the SONET is described below, but the correspondence between the SONET and the TTC standards can be clearly understood.

Recently, there is a strong demand for a

20 device capable of multiplexing/demultiplexing an ATM cell in an STS-1 unit while operating an N.A. asynchronous DS3 STM network, and entering the N.A. new SONET from the ATM network.

In this case, in a method of combining the

25 conventional STM device with an ATM device, the

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entire device becomes large both in size and power consumption. In addition, in a method of generating an output AIS signal when an alarm signal is detected, the entire circuit becomes larger in size
5 and power consumption if the conventional method used on the SONET side is adopted as is.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention aims at providing an ATM
10 cell service apparatus capable of providing an ATM cell service in a device for supporting an N.A. new synchronous network.

The ATM cell service apparatus which accommodates an ATM cell in an optical synchronous
15 communications network through an N.A. asynchronous communications network according to the present invention includes: an optical synchronous communications network signal terminating unit for terminating a signal in an optical synchronous
20 communications network; an N.A. asynchronous communications network signal terminating unit for terminating a signal in an N.A. asynchronous communications network; an ATM cell extraction unit for extracting an ATM cell from a signal of the
25 optical synchronous communications network or a

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The ATM cell service method in which an ATM cell is accommodated in an optical synchronous communications network through an N.A. asynchronous communications network according to the present invention includes: (a) a step of terminating a signal in an optical synchronous communications network; (b) a step of terminating a signal in an N.A. asynchronous communications network; (c) a step of extracting an ATM cell from a signal of the optical synchronous communications network or a signal of the N.A. asynchronous communications network; (d) a step of mapping an ATM cell extracted in step (c) in a signal of the N.A. asynchronous communications network or the optical

synchronous communications network; and (e) a step of transmitting a signal of the N.A. asynchronous communications network in which the ATM cell is mapped, or a signal of the optical synchronous communications network in which the ATM cell is mapped.

Conventionally, there have been an interface between an optical synchronous communications network and an N.A. asynchronous communications network, and an interface between an N.A. asynchronous communications network and an ATM network. However, there has not been a connection device between an ATM network and an optical synchronous communications network through an N.A. asynchronous communications network.

The present invention provides a method of mapping an ATM cell in a signal of an asynchronous communications network, and provides an ATM cell service in an asynchronous communications network.

According to the present invention, an optical synchronous communications network refers to a SONET, an SDH network, a network according to the TTC standards in Japan, etc.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 shows the relationship between an ATM cell service apparatus and various networks according to the embodiments of the present invention;

5 FIG. 2 shows the configuration of the outline of an ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

10 FIG. 3 is a block diagram of the entire configuration of an ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

15 FIG. 4 shows the detailed configuration (1) of the interface device for processing a signal from a downstream network to a SONET in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

20 FIG. 5 shows the detailed configuration (2) of the interface device for processing a signal from a downstream network to a SONET in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

25 FIG. 6 shows the detailed configuration (3) of the interface device for processing a signal from a downstream network to a SONET in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the

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present invention;

FIG. 7 is a table (1) of the process performed when an AIS/BLUE signal is detected when an ATM cell is mapped in a DS3 signal;

5 FIG. 8 is a table (2) of the process performed when an AIS/BLUE signal is detected when an ATM cell is mapped in a DS3 signal;

10 FIG. 9 shows the detailed configuration (4) of the interface device for processing a signal from a downstream network to a SONET in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

15 FIG. 10 shows the detailed configuration (1) of the interface device for processing a signal from a SONET to a downstream network in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

20 FIG. 11 shows the detailed configuration (2) of the interface device for processing a signal from a SONET to a downstream network in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

25 FIG. 12 shows the detailed configuration (3) of the interface device for processing a signal from a SONET to a downstream network in the ATM

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FIG. 13 shows the detailed configuration (4) of the interface device for processing a signal from a SONET to a downstream network in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

5 from a SONET to a downstream network in the ATM
cell service apparatus according to an embodiment
of the present invention; and

FIG. 14 shows the detailed configuration (5) of the interface device for processing a signal from a SONET to a downstream network in the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

FIG. 1 shows the relationship between an ATM cell service apparatus and various networks according to an embodiment of the present invention.

A DS3 network 13 is very popular in North America, and there is a strong possibility that it continues to be popular in the future. On the other hand, an ATM network 14 has recently been substantially realized. By providing an interface device between a boundary device 15 (at the boundary between the ATM network 14 and another network) of the ATM network 14 and a boundary

Furthermore, a SONET in which an optical signal is used as a transmission signal has recently been realized. A SONET is frequently used in the form of a ring. FIG. 1 shows a SONET ring 10 in which a plurality of nodes (ADM devices (add/drop multiplexers) are connected in the form of a ring. When communications are established with the SONET ring 10, it is necessary to input a signal from a node 11. Furthermore, to receive a signal from the SONET ring 10, it is necessary to receive a signal extracted from any node 11. Then, a boundary device 17 on the SONET ring 10 side of the DS3 network 13 is connected to the node 11 through an interface.

In this case, an interface device for mapping a signal of the DS3 network 13 in the signal of the SONET ring 10 has been provided in the conventional technology. However, there has been no device for mapping an ATM cell of the ATM network 14 connected to the DS3 network 13 directly in the signal of the SONET ring 10.

25 An ATM cell service device 12 according to an

embodiment of the present invention, provided in the node 11 which is a node of the SONET ring 10, or outside the node 11 as an interface portion between the node 11 and the boundary device 17 of the DS3 network 13, transfers an ATM cell of the signal of the DS3 network 13 in which ATM cells are mapped to a signal of the SONET ring 10, or maps an ATM cell of a signal of the SONET ring 10 in which ATM cells are mapped in the signal of the DS3 network 13.

FIG. 2 shows the configuration of the outline of the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

In FIG. 2, a DS3 (44.736 Mbps) signal input from an N.A. asynchronous DS3 network terminates the DS3 signal in a DS3 interface circuit 21 of a DS3/ATM cell demapping unit 20, and an ATM cell is extracted from the DS3 signal. An ATM cell/N.A. new synchronous SONET STS mapping unit 23 maps an ATM cell in a SONET STS signal. At this time, if the DS3 signal is an STM (synchronous transfer mode) signal, the ATM cell extraction circuit 22 for extracting an ATM cell from a DS3 signal is bypassed.

On the other hand, an STS signal input from

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the N.A. new synchronous SONET terminates an STS-1 signal in an STS demapping circuit 25 of an STS/ATM cell demapping unit 24, and an ATM cell is extracted from the STS signal. At this time, if the

5 STS signal is an STM signal, the ATM cell extraction circuit 26 for extracting an ATM cell from an STS signal is bypassed. An ATM cell/N.A. asynchronous DS3 mapping unit 27 maps an ATM cell in the DS3 signal. If the STM signal is mapped by

10 the STS signal, then it is mapped as is in the DS3.

As described later, according to an embodiment of the present invention, a smaller circuit can be realized without adding an oscillator by using a VCXO, fluctuating only for the deviation of the

15 VCXO (local oscillator) as frequency fluctuation even when an alarm signal is generated, for an ATM mode not for use in an STM mode, by using in an STM mode a VCXO for multiplexing a cell in an ATM mode so that the frequency of the output AIS signal can

20 be stabilized when an alarm signal is detected on the SONET side to realize the ATM cell service apparatus using a DS3 signal.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of the entire configuration of the ATM cell service apparatus

25 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

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In FIG. 3, the block described as x3ch shows the same configuration for 3 channels. The embodiment described below is not limited to the connection between a DS3 network and a SONET as shown in FIG. 2, but can be applied to the connection between a SONET and another SONET, the connection between a DS3 network and a SONET, and the connection between an E3 network and a SONET. Therefore, a SONET is defined as an upstream network, and a SONETn a DS3 network, or an E3 network to be connected to the upstream SONET is defined as a downstream network.

A DTPin input to the line interface block from the left as shown in FIG. 3 is a positive signal of a downstream network. A DTNin is a negative signal of a downstream network. A CLKin is a clock signal transmitted together with a positive signal and a negative signal.

When these signals are input to the line interface block, they first pass through a block LB for loopback transfer. The block LB is used when a signal is looped back if a fault occurs, etc. As a downstream network signal is looped back, an upstream network signal can be looped back in a block LB as necessary. When no signals are looped

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back in the block LB, a signal from the downstream network is input to a block 30.

In block 30, a signal is decoded in a block DEC, and it is determined whether or not the decoded signal has a bit error in a block BPV ERR DET. Then, it is determined whether or not a signal is missing in a block LOS DET. In addition, it is determined whether or not a signal contains an alarm indication signal, that is, whether or not an error is contained in the decoded signal information in an AIS DET. In a block SYNC, it is determined whether or not the synchronization with the DS3 signal is attained. If not, it is determined that a received signal has not been correctly received. Furthermore, if the synchronization is attained with the DS3 signal, and the signal is correctly received, then a section overhead and a line overhead are extracted in a block S/LOH DROP.

Thus, a DS3 signal input to a line interface block is processed in each of the above mentioned blocks, and input as data to an STS multiplexing block. At this time, a clock signal and an AIS signal are input to the STS multiplexing block with the data.

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In the STS multiplexing block, a process is assigned depending on the type of input data. That is, if an input DS3 signal is obtained by mapping the STS-1 signal, then a signal is input to a block 32. The block 32 stores a signal in memory MEMS, and outputs it at a predetermined clock to perform a destuffing process. Furthermore, a pointer for adjustment of a phase shift of an STS-1 frame which is a signal format of a SONET in a block PTR GEN is generated, and embedded and output in a signal.

When a signal input to the STS multiplexing block is a signal obtained by mapping an STM signal in a DS3 signal, the bit rate is converted in the memory MEMS, and is then output.

15 When a signal input to the STS multiplexing
block is a signal obtained by mapping an ATM cell
in a DS3 signal, the PLCP (physical layer
convergence protocol) frame, which is a
predetermined format for mapping an ATM cell in the
20 DS3, is synchronized in the blocks PLCP SYNC and CR
SYNC, and furthermore, an ATM cell is synchronized
using a CR byte. Then, the ATM cell is input to a
block CELL Buff. The block CELL Buff is a buffer,
and outputs an input ATM cell at a timing for
25 matching a bit rate of the STS-1 signal.

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Thus, when a signal matching the bit rate of the STS-1 signal is generated, a path overhead is inserted into these signals in the block STS POH INS, and a J1 byte of an identifier indicating the head of a frame is inserted into a path overhead in the block J1 INS. In the block S/LOH GEN, a section overhead and a line overhead are generated, and added to the signal generated as described above into an STS-1 signal in the block STS-1 MAP. The STS-1 signal is multiplexed by 3 channels into an STS-3 signal in the block STS-3 BYTE MUX. Then, in the block STS-3 SPG, a clock signal to be transmitted with the STS-3 signal is generated, and transmitted with the generated STS-3 signal.

The block Dwn DET has the function of determining whether or not a synchronous clock signal input from a SONET has been down.

A signal input from the SONET is first input to an STS demultiplexing block. In FIG. 3, signals of the current circuit (WORK) and a standby circuit (PROTECTION) are input. Each of the current circuit and the standby circuit comprises a circuit for transmitting data and a circuit for transmitting a clock signal. Therefore, in the STS demultiplexing block, a block STS-3 SYNC is provided for both

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current and standby circuits to determine whether or not the synchronization of the STS-3 signal is correct. In addition, using a B1 byte of an STS-3 frame, a block B2 CHK is provided for both current and standby circuits to check whether or not a signal error occurs in the STS-3 frame. As described above, the block Dwn DET has the function of determining whether or not a synchronous clock signal input from a SONET has been down.

10 A block STS-3 PG is a block in which a pulse synchronous with the STS-3 signal of the SONET is generated. A block P-SW is a protection switch for switching the current and standby circuits input from the SONET. The input STS-3 signal is
15 demultiplexed into STS-1 signals in the block STS-3 BYTE DMUX. The path overhead of the demultiplexed signals is detected in the block STS POH DET. A J1 byte is checked in the block J1 CHK. In the block S/LOH DET, a section overhead and a line overhead
20 are detected.

When the data obtained from the STS-1 signal is data in which other protocols are not mapped, it is input to a block 35, and stored in the memory MEM. Then, it is read at a speed matching the bit
25 rate of the DS3 signal from the memory MEM, and is

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transmitted to the line interface block.

When the data obtained from the STS-1 signal is obtained by mapping an STM signal, it is input to a block 36. In the block 36, the DS3 signal is
5 destuffed, and a small discrepancy from a synchronous signal is amended. Furthermore, a signal obtained after the destuffing process is input to a block BIT LEAK, and the fluctuation in the bit rate of a signal caused by removing a
10 header from the STS-1 is amended, and the resultant signal is output to a line interface block.

When the data obtained from the STS-1 signal is obtained by mapping an ATM cell, it is input to a block 37. In the block 37, it is checked in the
15 clock CR SYNC. In the block PLCP MAP, an ATM cell is mapped in the PLCP format, and transmitted in the line interface block.

In addition to the data obtained as described above, a clock signal and an AIS are input from an
20 STS demultiplexing block to a block 31 of the line interface block.

In block 31, a desired clock signal is obtained by adjusting the frequency in the clock PLL. A block VCXO DOWN DET has the function of
25 detecting whether or not a local oscillator is down.

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The data input from the STS demultiplexing block to the line interface block is stored in the memory MEM R, read according to a clock signal generated in the block PLL, and obtained as a
5 signal at a bit rate matching the bit rate of the DS3 signal. Furthermore, in the block S/LOH INS, a section overhead and a line overhead are inserted, the synchronization of the generated DS3 signal is checked in the block SYNC, the signal is coded in
10 the block COD, and is then output.

Thus, the coded DS3 signal is transmitted to the downstream network through the block LB.

FIGS. 4 through 9 show the detailed configuration of the interface device on the
15 upstream side for processing a signal from the downstream network of the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention to the SONET.

Described below is the process performed on
20 one channel, but three channels are installed on one chip according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows the configuration of the half of the downstream network side of the interface device
25 for one channel, and it is assumed that a

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downstream signal converted into a digital signal is input from the left as shown in FIG. 4. First, from the downstream network side, the positive data DATA (p), negative data DATA (n), and a clock CLK are input. A selector 40 selects the normal input data or the data input from the T-LB shown in FIG. 4 when a signal is looped back, and outputs the selected data. The input data is branched to either a branch 41-1 or 41-2. When an ATM cell is mapped in the E3 format in the downstream data, the data is output to the lower side shown in FIG. 4. Otherwise, the data is output to the left side. In this switching process, when a user uses the ATM cell service apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention, it is first determined whether or not an ATM cell is used in the E3 format, and it is determined in which direction the downstream signal input to the apparatus is to be transmitted from the branches 41-1 and 41-2. The branches 41-1 and 41-2 normally comprise two flipflops and an enable signal. By inputting an enable signal to one flipflop and inputting a signal obtained by logically inverting the enable signal to another flipflop, a signal can be transmitted only to one flipflop. In the subsequent

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drawings and descriptions, when a branch portion is indicated by a rectangle, it indicates the configuration similar to those of the branches 41-1 and 41-2.

5 When a signal is output to the left side shown in FIG. 4 from the branches 41-1 and 41-2, the signal is input to a LOS (loss of signal) determination unit 42. In this case, it is determined whether or not a signal has a defect.
10 Furthermore, the signal is input to a decoder 43 and decoded, and a bit error is detected by a decoding result bit error detection unit BPV. The detection result is transmitted to a management device not shown in FIG. 4.

15 The decoded signal is transmitted to the left side shown in FIG. 4 when the downstream signal is an STS-1 signal at a branch 44, and transmitted to the lower portion shown in FIG. 4 when the signal is obtained by directly mapping an STM or by
20 mapping an ATM.

 When a downstream signal is an STS-1 signal, it is converted into a parallel signal by a serial/parallel conversion unit S/P, and input to a synchronization detection unit STS-1 SYNC of an
25 STS-1 signal. The result detected by the

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synchronization detection unit STS-1 SYNC is input to an out of frame determination unit OOF DET to determine whether or not an out of frame state has arisen.

5 Then, the signal is input to a descrambling unit DSCR, descrambled, and output. A B2 byte check unit B2 CHK checks a B2 byte, and an S1 byte check unit S1 LOSMES checks an S1 byte message. A Z2 byte check unit Z2 FEBE_L checks the FEBE (far end block error) of a line overhead to determine whether or
10 not an error has occurred. Furthermore, a section/line overhead extraction unit S/LOH DROP extracts a section overhead and a line overhead from a signal. The data of these overheads is
15 transmitted to a management device, and an opposite station alarm detection unit RDI_L DET detects the opposite station alarm information about a line overhead. An AIS detection unit AIS_L DET detects the AIS of a line overhead.

20 Furthermore, in the next stage, a pointer detection unit PTR DET detects a pointer. A loss of pointer detection unit LOP DET detects a loss of pointer state. An AIS_P detection unit AIS_P DET detects the AIS of a path overhead. Furthermore, an
25 H1 and H2 detection unit determines whether or not

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H1 and H2 bytes are set to all 1. When the H1 and H2 bytes are set to all 1, it is determined that the STS-1 signal currently being processed is an error signal.

5 Then, at a branch 44, when a signal is transmitted to the lower portion shown in FIG. 4, the signal is input to selectors 45 and 46. The selector 45 selects either inputting a test pattern signal from a test pattern generation unit
10 described later, or inputting a normal signal from a downstream network. When a test pattern signal is transmitted, the selector 46 selects whether or not the test pattern signal is input to the test pattern detection unit TEST Pattern DET.

15 When the selector 45 selects a normal signal from a downstream network, the signal is input to the DS3 synchronization unit DS3 SYNC. A DS3 synchronization unit DS3 SYNC 45-1 detects a synchronization state of a DS3 signal as in the
20 case of the STS-1, and an out of frame detection unit OOF DET 45-2 determines whether or not an out of frame state of a DS3 signal has occurred. A frame error detection unit F.M. Err determines whether or not an error has occurred in a bit
25 string of a frame. The result is transmitted to the

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management device.

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A signal whose synchronization has been detected by the DS3 synchronization unit is parity-checked by a parity check unit Parity CHK, and then
5 an AIS/BLUE signal detection unit AIS/BLU DET 45-3 detects a state of the generation of a signal fault. A user selects and sets whether an AIS signal is used or a BLUE signal is used. The use of a BLUE signal is similar to that of an AIS signal. The
10 BLUE signal is a signal specific to the DS3, and is in accordance with the BELLCORE Standards GR 499-CORE 10.5.1.1. Furthermore, an idle signal detection unit IDLE SIGNAL DET 45-4 determines whether or not the signal being processed is an
15 idle signal. A RAI detection unit RAI DET detects an alarm of an opposite station at the RAI byte of the DS3 signal as in the case of the RDI of the STS-1.

The C bit parity detection unit C-bit Parity
20 detects the parity in the C bit format depending on whether or not the DS3 signal is a C bit format signal in which a DS1 signal is directly mapped. A user obtains the information about whether or not the DS3 signal input to the ATM cell service
25 apparatus according to the present embodiment uses

the C bit format, and sets whether or not the management device not shown in FIG. 4 instructs the operation of the C bit parity detection unit C-bit Parity. When the C bit parity detection unit C-bit Parity is operating, an ISID message about an opposite station alarm information FEAC, a block error FEBC, a C bit format parity, what has transmitted the signal, etc. is detected using the C bit format. The FEAC has the function of looping back a signal when an alarm signal is issued by an opposite station. Whether or not a looping back process is performed is transmitted to a loopback controller LB cont not shown in FIG. 4.

When a signal is output at the branches 41-1
and 41-2 toward the lower portion shown in FIG. 4,
it indicates that an ATM cell is mapped in the E3
format. In this case, the signal is decoded by a
decoder 48, and it is determined whether or not the
bit error detection BPV has detected a bit error.
The determination result is transmitted to a

management device not shown in FIG. 4. Then, the signal is detected by the AIS detection unit AIS DET, and it is determines whether or not a fault has occurred.

5 Then, the E3 synchronization unit E3 SYNC detects the synchronization state in the E3 format, and the out of frame detection unit OOF DET determines whether or not an out of frame state has occurred. Then, the RDI detection unit RDI DET
10 detects an opposite station alarm, the FEBE detection unit detects a block error, and the BIP-8 error detection unit BIP-8 ERR DET determines whether or not a bit error has occurred. Then, a timing marker of the E3 format is detected, a
15 payload type is detected by a payload type detection unit Payload Type DET, and an NR/GC detection unit NR/GC DET detects the NR byte and the GC byte which contain the maintenance information about the E3 format.

20 The selector 46 selects either a signal input from the decoder 43 or a signal input through a decoder 48 depending on format of the test pattern, in the DS3 format or in the E3 format, transmitted from the test pattern generation unit described
25 later, and inputs the selected signal to a test

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15 When a signal obtained by directly mapping the
STM signal in the DS3 is input from the circuit
shown in FIG. 4, the bit rate of a signal is
converted in the DS3 memory DS3 MEM, and an AIS
signal or an idle signal is inserted as necessary
20 by the AIS insertion unit DS3 AIS INS and the idle
signal insertion unit DS3 IDLE INS. The direct
mapping unit DS3 Direct Mapping and the stuff
control unit Stuff Control perform a stuff control
process to directly map the DS3 signal in the STS-1
25 signal. After each byte (J1, F1, Z3, Z4, Z5, C2, G1

and B3) of the overhead is generated in the path overhead insertion unit STS POH INS through a selector 51, it is inserted in a signal from the selector 51 as a path overhead. A C2 byte indicates what type of signal is contained in the payload of the STS-1 frame, and can be set by a user from a man-machine interface MM1 through a block C2 GEN. Thus, a configured STS-1 signal is output through the selector 50..

10 When a signal DS3 ATM DATA obtained by mapping an ATM cell in the SA3 signal is received as shown in FIG. 4, a process to be performed depends on whether the ATM cell is directly mapped or mapped in a PLCP format at a branch 52. When it is directly mapped, it is output through selectors 53 and 54.

20 When an ATM cell is mapped in the PLCP format, a PLCP synchronization unit DS3 PLCP SYNC 52-1 detects the synchronization, and an out of frame detection unit 52-2 determines whether or not an out of frame state has occurred. Then, the PLCP path overhead detection unit DS3 PLCP POH DET detects each of the bytes C1, B1, and G1 of the PLCP path overhead, the destuff unit DS3 PLCP Destuff performs a destuffing process, and the

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In the E3 format, when an STM cell is mapped, the output shown in FIG. 4 is output to the circuit in the subsequent circuit through the selector 54.

5 The abnormality of the HEC (header error control) of the signal output from the selector 54 is checked by the HEC check unit HEC CRC CAL. The synchronization state of the HEC is checked by the HEC synchronization unit HEC SYNC and the HEC synchronization state monitor unit LCD/OCD/WORK
10 state. Then, a signal is input to the block correct/defect state. In this block, when the synchronization state of the HEC cannot be maintained, a user can specify the correction of the fault. When the user specifies the correction
15 of the fault, an ATM cell whose HEC synchronization state has been corrected is output from the block. When the user does not specify the correction of the fault, the ATM cell is output as is.

20 Next, the ATM cell is descrambled, and input to an unassigned cell discard unit IDLE Cell/unassigned Cell Discard. When the ATM cell is an idle cell and an empty cell containing no user data after the above mentioned process, the ATM cell is discarded. When the ATM cell is not
25 discarded, it is temporarily stored in a cell

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buffer, output, scrambled through the selector 55, and the selector 51 performs the process of the above mentioned STS-1 signal.

When it is determined that the ATM cell is an idle cell or an unassigned cell, an idle cell/unassigned cell insertion unit IDLE Cell/unassigned Cell INS outputs an idle cell and an unassigned cell, and they are output from the selector 55 instead of the discarded cell. Thus, since an idle cell and an unassigned cell obtained as a result of processing a received ATM cell are not output, an idle cell and an unassigned cell not affected by the fluctuation of a clock occurring during the process of an ATM cell can be transmitted. In addition, when it is determined that there has arisen a fault in an ATM cell during each of the above mentioned processes performed when an ATM cell is mapped in a DS3 signal, an idle cell and an unassigned cell insertion unit outputs an idle cell or an unassigned cell. Thus, an idle cell and an unassigned cell not affected by the fluctuation of a clock of the ATM cell processed as described above are output. Therefore, the idle cell and the unassigned cell are transmitted using a stable clock not affected by the fluctuation of

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the clock generated by transmitting data through a network.

An OAM cell insertion unit OAM Cell INS and an HEC insertion unit HEC INS for an OAM cell output an OAM cell at an instruction of a user when the user maintains a network. When an OAM cell is transmitted for maintenance, an ATM cell containing user data normally transmitted during the operation is not transmitted. Therefore, an OAM cell is output from the selector 55. A BP cell from a BP (back pressure) generator described later is inserted and transmitted instead of an OAM cell.

As described above, an STS-1 signal output from the selector 50 is transmitted to the circuit shown in FIG. 9.

FIG. 9 shows the configuration of the circuit of the transmission unit of a STS-2 signal.

First, an STS-3 multiplexing unit STS-3 MUX inputs 3 channels of 1-channel STS-1 signal described by referring to FIGS. 4 through 6, multiplexes these signals, and generates an STS-3 signal. A section overhead and a line overhead are inserted into the multiplexed STS-3 signal. The resultant signal is scrambled, and is output from the interface unit INF. The interface unit outputs

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a set of data, that is, a BRDT1-8 (8-bit parallel data) and a frame pulse BRFP0. The frame pulses SYSFPW and SYSFPP of the current system and standby system, and the clock pulses SYSCKW and SYSCKP are
5 input from other modules of the ATM cell service apparatus to the interface device described by referring to FIGS. 4 through 9. Frame pulse/clock down detection units FP/CLK DOWN DET 56 and 57 detect whether or not these signals are down. A
10 selector 58 selects any of the above mentioned clocks, and provides a operation reference clock for the interface device described by referring to FIGS. 4 through 9, and the interface device from an upstream network described later to a downstream
15 network. A timing adjustment unit adjusts the timing discrepancy generated by a propagation time of a clock generated when the clock is distributed to the memory of an interface device, etc. (in FIG. 9, the configuration in which the clock from the
20 selector 58 is distributed to the memory of the interface device, etc. is omitted). The clock is input to an STS pulse generation unit STS PG together with a main clock BRCK of the ATM cell service apparatus storing the interface device
25 according to the present embodiment, used to adjust

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Only the H1 and H2 bytes of the signal output from the protection switch P-SW are extracted in the STS section/line overhead detection unit STS S/LOH DET, and the synchronization position of the STS-3 frame is detected. The STS-3 signal transmitted from the protection switch P-SW is demultiplexed into an STS-1 signal by an STS-3 demultiplexing unit STS-3 DMUX, and is transmitted to the circuit of each channel.

FIG. 11 shows the configuration of the
25 subsequent circuits shown in FIG. 10.

After converting the signal into an STS-1 signal by the STS-3 demultiplexing unit, a path AIS detection unit AIS-P detects the fault state of the AIS of the path overhead. In addition, the pointer
5 detection unit Pointer DET detects a pointer based on the H1 and H2 bytes detected in FIG. 10, and the pointer destuff unit Pointer De-stuff destuffs a pointer. Then, a branch 60 branches a signal depending on whether the received STS signal is an
10 STS-1 signal itself, or obtained by mapping an STM or an ATM signal.

When a signal is an STS-1 signal itself, the pointer change memory Pointer Change MEM performs a stuffing process.

15 When a signal is obtained by mapping an STM or an ATM signal, it is input to the B3 computation unit B3 Cal, and input to the path overhead detection unit STS POH DET of the STS-1. Then, B3 byte, C2 byte, J1 byte, and other bytes are
20 detected.

Then, at a branch 61, an STS signal is branched depending on whether the STS signal has been obtained by mapping an STM signal or by mapping an ATM cell. When the DS3 signal is
25 obtained by mapping an STM signal, it is input to

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the destuff control detection unit De-Stuff Control
DET and the DS3 direct mapping/destuff unit DS3
Direct Mapping Destuff, the STM signal is mapped
while destuffing the DS3 signal, and the
5 fluctuation of the bit rate is obtained in the bit
leak unit Bit Leak.

A clock from the local oscillator VCXO is directly input to the bit leak unit Bit Leak, and a clock obtained as having $1/3$ of the frequency of the clock from the local oscillator VCXO is input to the destuff control detection unit De-Stuff Control DET and the DS3 direct mapping/destuff unit DS3 Direct Mapping Destuff. A signal obtained as having $1/4$ of the frequency of the clock from the local oscillator VCXO is input to the pulse comparator PC. Similarly, the phase difference between the signal and the reference clock REF CK (BRCK shown in FIG. 9) input to the pulse comparator PC is detected. The phase difference is fed back to the local oscillator VCXO, and adjusted such that a clock constantly having the same phase as the reference clock REF CK can be maintained.

When a signal is obtained by mapping an ATM cell, it is transmitted downward as shown in FIG. 11 at the branch 61. When a signal is obtained by

mapping an ATM cell, it is then input to the HEC computation unit HEC CRC CAL. In this example, the CRC computing method can be an OCTET method and a NIBBLE method. The user can select any of these methods. Then, the cell synchronization unit CELL SYNC detects a cell synchronization state. At the next stage (Correct/Defect state), the user can set the synchronization state of an ATM cell as is, or restore the synchronization state. Then, the ATM cell is descrambled, and an idle cell/unassigned cell discard unit IDLE Cell/Unassigned Discard discards the ATM cell when the ATM cell is an idle cell or an empty cell containing no user data.

When the ATM cell is not discarded, it is stored in a cell buffer. At this time, the bit rate is adjusted for a slower speed. However, since the bit rate on the SONET side is low, the buffer can become full because the ATM cell cannot be transmitted from the cell buffer in time. Thus, when the buffer becomes full, the BP generation unit BP GEN generates a back pressure cell, transmits it from the OAM cell insertion unit shown in FIG. 6, and temporarily stops the transmitter transmitting signals.

The ATM cell transmitted from the cell buffer

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is transmitted to the scrambler through a selector 62, and is then scrambled. If the ATM cell is an idle cell and an unassigned cell, an idle cell/unassigned cell insertion unit IDLE Cell/Unassigned INS inserts an idle cell or an unassigned cell. Thus, an idle cell or an unassigned cell independent of the fluctuation of a clock transmitted together with data through a transmission line can be transmitted. Thus, the inserted idle cell or unassigned cell is output from the selector 62, and is scrambled by a scrambler.

A branch 63 branches the ATM cell depending on whether the mapping format of the ATM cell is the E3 format, the direct map, and the PLCP. When the mapping of the ATM cell is the E3 format, the ATM cell is transmitted as is to the next circuit. When the mapping of the ATM cell is the direct mapping, the ATM cell is input to a selector 64.

When the mapping format of the ATM cell is the PLCP, the ATM cell is input to the POH/POI byte insertion unit DS3 PLCP POH/POI INS, and the B1, G1, and C1 bytes are input to the ATM cell. Furthermore, the framing insertion unit DS3 PLCP Framing INS inserts the leading bytes A1 and A2 of the PLCP

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The selector 64 outputs either the ATM cell of the direct map or the ATM cell of the PLCP format. Then, the ATM cell output from the selector 64 is output to the circuit at the next stage.

The STS-1 signal input from the circuit shown in FIG. 11 is input to the pointer generation unit PTR GEN to add a pointer and a path AIS byte (generated by the path AIS generation unit PAIS GEN). Then, the STS-1 signal is input to the section/line overhead insertion unit S/LOH INS, put in the STS-1 frame generated by the STS-1 frame generation unit STS-1 FRAME GEN, and receives the B1 and B2 bytes, the AIS_L byte, the S1 byte, and H1 and H2 bytes. Then, the signal is scrambled by a scrambler 65, selected by a selector 66, and encoded by an encoder 67. Then, the encoded signal is selected by a selector 68 and transmitted to an output unit.

25 A DS3 signal obtained by mapping an STM signal

is input to the memory MEM to which a clock from the local oscillator described later is input, and then output after the bit rate is converted. The phase of the local oscillator and the phase of the VCXO shown in FIG. 11 are checked by a pulse comparator PC 69 for consistency. The synchronization of the signal output from the memory MEM is detected by the DS3 synchronization unit DS3 SYNC, and an out of frame state, a parity and AIS/BLUE signal are detected, an idle signal is detected, an opposite station alarm is detected, a C-bit is detected, etc. A signal output from the memory MEM is input to a selector 70 and selected. Then, a BLUE/AIS signal and an idle signal are inserted to the signal by the BLUE/AIS generation unit BLUE/AIS GEN and the idle signal generation unit IDLE SIGNAL GEN as necessary. Then, after a selector 71 selects the signal, the signal is input to the encoder 67 through the selector 68. The signal output from the encoder 67 is output to an output unit through the selector 68.

When the DS3 signal is obtained by mapping an ATM signal, the DS3 frame generation unit DS3 FRAME GEN configures it in the DS3 frame. At this time, a parity bit, an RAI byte, a C-bit, etc. are inserted.

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5 The ATM cell in the E3 format is generated in
the E3 frame by the E3 frame generator, and the AIS
generator AIS GEN inserts an AIS byte in the frame,
and the result is input to a selector 72. After the
selector 72 selects it, an encoder 73 encodes it
10 and outputs it to the output unit through the
selector 68.

A fault signal generator 74 generates and outputs a fault signal of each protocol when a signal input from an upstream network is an AIS signal, etc. in a faulty condition. That is, in the case of an STS-1 signal, it generates a PAIS byte, put it in a section/line overhead of the STS-1 frame, scrambles it, encodes it in an encoder 75, and outputs it to the output unit. In the case of a

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back the value of the generated fluctuation in phase difference, etc. to the oscillator. Thus, the signals from the ATM oscillator, the STS1 oscillator, and the E3 oscillator are stabilized to the reference clock, and a clock signal synchronous with the reference clock is generated. Thus, the generated clock signal is input to the output unit.

On the other hand, the output of the STM oscillator is output from the selector 80, and output from the D3_R CLK shown in FIG. 12 through (5). The terminal is connected to the pulse comparator 69, and the output of the pulse comparator PC is output as PC OUT_D3. The output is input to the oscillation unit shown in FIG. 13, and fed back to the STM oscillator. Therefore, the output of the STM oscillator is maintained in synchronization with the oscillator shown in FIG. 11 for stability. The output of the STM oscillator is transmitted to the output unit as other oscillators.

When there is no output from oscillators, the VCXO DOWN raises an alarm informing that an oscillator has become down.

The signals input through (3) and (4), a selector 85 selects a signal, and outputs it from

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the output control unit OUT CNT. At this time, the clock signal input through (6) is also output from a selector 87.

Furthermore, the T-LB and F-LB shown in FIG. 4
5 are connected to the output unit shown in FIG. 14,
and the signal F-LB is looped back by the output
unit, and transmitted as is to the downstream
network. The F-LB is looped back by the output unit,
and is transmitted as is to the downstream network.
10 The signal T-LB is input from (3), transmitted to
the circuit shown in FIG. 4, and transmitted to the
SONET through the interface device on the upstream
side. Thus, the loop back function can be
configured.

15 The present invention can provide an ATM cell
service apparatus capable of directly connecting an
ATM cell to a SONET through a DS3 network.

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